

committed to work with me to ensure this bill is tailored to help the small, independent neighborhood restaurants most in need of help in a fiscally responsible way.

CONFIRMATION OF BARBARA A. LEAF

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in support of Ambassador Barbara Leaf to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

It has been almost 400 days since President Biden announced this nomination to one of the most critical regions in the world when it comes to U.S. foreign policy interests. It is unconscionable that the post has remained vacant for so long.

Since her hearing at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the region has only become more complicated. Libya has been stuck in a stalemate since failed elections. In Tunisia, the President sacked the Prime Minister and suspended Parliament in a coup against democratically elected representatives. ISIS remains active in Syria, attacking a prison with guns and car bombs to free extremists earlier this year. A fragile ceasefire in Yemen followed blatant attacks on the UAE and Saudi Arabia by Iranian-backed Houthis using drones and missiles. Our staunch ally Israel is fending off rocket attacks. Iran is engaging in brinksmanship as negotiations drag on over its nuclear program, which has the potential to transform the balance of power in the region. And the Russian war against Ukraine has set off a major global food security crisis across Africa and the Middle East, adding to an already strained humanitarian situation in parts of the region.

Meanwhile, there are opportunities to seize. Our diplomacy in the Negev Summit process is as important as ever. Elections in Lebanon, government formation in Iraq—they are all developments that require deft American diplomacy.

These are some of the most important issues we confront in American foreign policy. We must have our A-team in place to advance American leadership and values. And no one is better suited for this job than Barbara Leaf, a dedicated public servant who devoted her career to the Foreign Service.

She has served as our Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Arabian Peninsula in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. She directed the critical Basrah U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Team on the ground in Iraq, and she was the Department's first Director of the Office of Iranian Affairs. She speaks Arabic, French, Italian, and Serbo-Croatian.

She currently works as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Middle East and North Africa Affairs on the National Security Council. She is up to speed and ready

to hit the ground running as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

The Senate's failure to confirm Ambassador Leaf earlier left a critical post vacant and the United States without a strong and powerful advocate for our Nation's interests across the Middle East and around the world. It is long past time for Ambassador Leaf to be in her Senate-confirmed role advancing our interests. I am pleased that Assistant Secretary Leaf can now begin to tackle the many challenges that await her.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmations of Executive Calendar No. 907, S. Lane Tucker, of Alaska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Alaska or the term of four years; Executive Calendar No. 916, Rachelle L. Crowe, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of four years; Executive Calendar No. 917, Jesse A. Laslovich, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana for the term of four years; Executive Calendar No. 918, Alexander M.M. Uballez, of New Mexico, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico for the term of four years.

RECOGNIZING THE GLOBAL MEDICAL RESPONSE STARS OF LIFE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, in honor of EMS Week, I rise to recognize the 57 Global Medical Response Stars of Life award recipients for 2020 through 2022.

Heroic acts by EMS professionals happen every day across the globe. In the State of Missouri, Global Medical Response has two ground ambulance operations and 12 air ambulance operations stationed strategically to best support our rural communities. Every day, these professionals are called upon, but two instances come to mind that truly illustrate their dedication.

In November of 2020, the air evac lifeteam flight crew—Flight Nurse Lisa Pittman, Flight Paramedic Rayna Periman, and Pilot Randy Varady—out of Perryville were called to action and, within minutes, were at the bedside of a senior diagnosed with an abdominal aortic aneurysm. When time mattered most, this care team made the difference in saving a life.

In February 2021, a high school student driving home from football practice was broadsided by a speeding semitruck. This time, Flight Paramedic Eric Schowe and Flight Nurse Stephanie McMillan were ready at a moment's notice to provide life sustaining care on board the EMS helicopter to help this student beat the odds.

Each year, the American Ambulance Association—AAA—honors and celebrates the most distinguished of Emer-

gency Medical Services professionals for their acts of service, dedication to their communities, and commitment to excellence through the Stars of Life program. Global Medical Response, a member of the AAA and the world's largest provider of emergent and non-emergent medical transportation and healthcare services, recognizes an elite group of individuals, ranging from emergency medical technicians and paramedics, to fire service professionals, nurses, dispatch specialists, and highly-skilled aviators.

To be a Stars of Life award recipient means to go above and beyond the call of duty. It means being ready to help a stranger, both on the ground and in the air with the care they need at that moment. It means always doing what is right for the patient, in every circumstance. To be a Star means to show compassion in the most difficult and humbling moments of a person's life. For some, it means making the ultimate sacrifice.

It is important to remember the ones who are no longer with us but left an indelible mark of excellence on the world. May we never forget their heroism, acts of kindness, and unselfish sacrifice that not only made a difference to the people they helped, but also a lasting impression on the entire Emergency Medical Services community. To their families and dearest loved ones, may you feel peace in knowing their lives will never be forgotten.

The Global Medical Response Stars of Life award recipients and all members of the Emergency Medical Services community at large are a shining light in our post-pandemic world and must be recognized as so. As such, I respectfully request that each of them be included in today's record, to honor their immense contributions and unwavering loyalty to their community while providing care to the world at a moment's notice.

Lauryn Allgood, Flight Nurse of Opelousas, LA

Brad Andrews, EMT of Tucson, AZ
Olga Borozinski, Flight Nurse of Las Vegas, NV

Loretta Burton, Paramedic of Youngstown, OH

Larry Cardwell, Flight Paramedic of Sacramento, CA

Destiny Carter, Paramedic of Colorado Springs, CO

Luke Combs, Pilot of Rosebud, SD
Mathew Cox, Paramedic of Stockton, CA
Amira Drakes, EMT of Trinidad & Tobago
Ismael Esparza, Paramedic of Palm Springs, CA

Peter Gauna, EMT of Stafford, AZ
Holly Griswold, Operations Supervisor of Cochise County, AZ

Scott Hedrick, Paramedic of Evansville, IN
Clifford Jacks, Paramedic of Concord, CA
Adam Martin, Paramedic of Buffalo, NY
Bryan McKeon, Paramedic of Monterey, CA

Will Moser, Regional Manager of Clinical Practices of Juneau, AK

Diana Priego, Flight Nurse of Sacramento, CA

Mathew Scott, Base Pilot Supervisor of Eagle Pass, TX

Mary Springer, LMS National Administrator of North Charleston, SC

Rain Swift, RN & EMT of Aiea, HI
James Tarver, Assistant Operations Supervisor of Natchez, MS

Wendy Unmacht, Paramedic of Nashville, TN

Joshua Young, Flight Respiratory Therapist of Perrysburg, OH

Carlos Valdez Acosta-Meza, Paramedic Supervisor of San Diego County, CA

Micheline Allaire Clement, Flight Nurse of Ypsilanti, MI

Renata Baboolal, EMT of Trinidad and Tobago

Frank Berlanga, Paramedic of Nashville, TN

Darla Biggerstaff, Paramedic of Waco, TX

Lance Blythe, Flight Paramedic of Fayette County, GA

Jeffery Boyd, Operations Supervisor of Linn County, KS

Eric Bradshaw, Firefighter/Paramedic of Knoxville, TN

Kyle Brule, Lead Paramedic of Stone Mountain, GA

James Burns, EMT of Seattle, WA

Pete Carlson, Paramedic Field Training Officer of Multnomah and Josephine counties, OR

Jason Dau, Flight Nurse of Kotzebue, AK

Dubravka Frost, Paramedic of Contra Costa County, CA

Michael Gibson, Flight Nurse of Salinas, CA

Cathy Heikes, Flight Nurse of Dodge City, KS

Kimberly Hiner, EMT of Hemet, CA

Brooke Holoubek, Flight Nurse of Napa, CA

Franchon Jackson, Dispatch Communications Supervisor of Jackson, MS

Bryanna Johnson, Base Clinical Nurse Lead of Harrisburg, IL

Daniel MacDowell, Reserve Firefighter of Grants Pass, OR

Cassandra Moreno, EMT of Tucson, AZ

Nicole Piazza, Paramedic of West Hartford, CT

Jack Rathgeber, Field Supervisor of Alamogordo, NM

KC Robbins, Paramedic Supervisor of Macomb, IL

Dylan Schoch, Paramedic of Prescott, AZ

Robert Sebree, Paramedic of Ventura County, CA

Lauren Van Damme, Fixed Wing Pilot of Greenville, SC

Mario Vialpando, Field Training Officer of Pueblo, CO

Lauri Wempen, Flight Paramedic of Riverton, WY

Todd Wobbe, Paramedic of Belleville, IL

Posthumous Honors

Jacob Dindinger, EMT of Tucson, AZ

Clifford Fontaine, AEMT of Las Vegas, NV

William Levi, AEMT of Las Vegas, NV

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL SARA JOYNER

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to wish to recognize and congratulate Rear Admiral Sara Joyner of the U.S. Navy on her faithful service to our Nation as the Department of the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs from May 2020 to May 2022.

An amazing leader and warfighter, Rear Admiral Joyner demonstrated outstanding commitment to strengthening the Navy's relationship with the Members of Congress during a turbulent time for our country and institutions as the world navigated a global pandemic that fundamentally changed the way we all interact, communicate,

and live. As COVID-19 brought some organizations to a complete stand-still, Rear Admiral Joyner found new and innovative ways to keep open the lines of communication between the Department of the Navy and Congress, ensuring that the work we do on behalf of the Nation, our sailors, marines and their families went on.

As the first woman ever to command a Super Hornet squadron and then Carrier Air Wing, with a career legacy of breaking down barriers, it is no surprise Rear Admiral Joyner brings tenacity to any job, a quality both necessary and appreciated here on Capitol Hill. She understood the importance of maintaining a strong partnership between senior Navy leadership and the Hill, and never shied away from tough conversations. With enormous pride, she shared the wonderful stories and accomplishments of our sailors and marines, while also representing the Navy with professionalism and grace when the news was not good and, at times even heartbreaking.

Rear Admiral Joyner has a clear-eyed understanding of our Nation's resurgent adversaries and the future implications for our maritime forces, specifically about the Columbia-class, shipbuilding, maintenance, and technology; a great spirit, she was fond of laughing about how a naval aviator could spend so much time talking about submarines. Her team is the reason senior Navy leaders are always well prepared in hearings, calls, and briefings.

Rear Admiral Joyner's team has worked tirelessly to educate the Members of Congress and our staff on the challenging issues facing the Department of the Navy, support hearings on vital issues, ensure the annual National Defense Authorization Acts are thoughtfully developed, as well as assist with providing diligence to the countless requests for assistance from our constituents. Her liaisons escorted congressional delegations on travel around the world with professionalism and a remarkable level of attention to the smallest details. On behalf of my colleagues and the entire U.S. Senate, I want to personally thank Rear Admiral Sara Joyner for her more than three decades of dedicated service to the Navy and our Nation. She will certainly be missed. I especially want to recognize and thank her incredibly supportive husband, James, and children Sara and Mark, and wish them "fair winds and following seas."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES HOUGH

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Dr. James Hough of Lewis and Clark County as Montanan of the Month for his compassion and kindness toward his fellow Montana veterans and his dedication to providing them with the quality care they deserve.

Dr. Hough began his career of service at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, FL, and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for Excellence in Anesthesia and Pain Management. He began his work serving as the only pain management provider in Montana for the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2018. Dr. Hough started with just a few patients, and over the past few years, he has rapidly expanded his reach, having a meaningful impact on the lives of thousands of Montana veterans across the State.

One of Dr. Hough's many success stories is with a veteran from Billings who was in a wheelchair and in low spirits thinking his quality of life would never improve. He and his wife took regular trips from Billings to visit Dr. Hough for consultations and procedures. Dr. Hough's patient progressively moved from a wheelchair, to a walker, to a cane, and eventually needing little to no support. The veteran's wife expressed how his demeanor and outlook on life was improved with Dr. Hough's help.

It is clear that Dr. Hough truly cares about his patients and ensuring many generations of Montana veterans have the quality of life they deserve. Dr. Hough truly embodies the values and spirit of a Montanan. It is my honor to recognize Dr. Hough for his service to our great State and Nation and for his dedication to improving the lives of his fellow Montana veterans. Keep up the great work, Dr. Hough. You make Montana and our country proud.●

RECOGNIZING CORETRANS

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week, I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, CoreTrans of Somerset, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

As you all know, the legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic has burdened the global economy with tangled supply chains, drastically prolonged shipping schedules, and an insatiable level of consumer demand. Given this current climate it gives me great pleasure to honor a Kentucky small business operating on the front lines of the supply chain crisis. Founded in 2002, CoreTrans was started by Brian Whitaker, a third generation Whitaker in the transportation business. Brian and the whole team at CoreTrans have played a vital role in the recovery from the pandemic and subsequent government lockdowns and they continue to support local commerce within the community.

Brian Whitaker is the youngest of three generations of truckers. Perhaps it is that collective expertise between him and his family that has allowed Brian to lead CoreTrans through years of tremendous growth. Getting his